5. In Haryana Region M/s. Hemant International. Kurukshetra submitted forged documents for the quantity of 2000 MT Raw Rice supplied in September, 2002 and Bank Guarantee for sum of Rs. 71,80,000/- was encashed besides, differential cost was also recovered by the District Office Kurukshetra. Now, District Office, Kurukshetra has intimated that after investigation, the local police has closed the case as there is no loss to Food Corporation of India.

6. NCCF, Kolkata, had submitted forged export document for the quantity of 534.406 MT of wheat issued from West Bengal region of export to Bhutan *vide* allocation order dated 11.06.2002/ 27.06.2002. The differential cost of foodgrains with interest stands recovered from the exporter as per the policy instructions.

Foodgrains scams

†2446. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scam regarding foodgrains has taken place;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

(c) the action taken by Government with regard to each of the scams alongwith the status of enquiry being conducted into each of them as on date?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Few instances of irregularities regarding procurement and distribution in foodgrains have come to the notice of the Government during the last two years. The details of these instances and the aciton taken by the concerned authorities are shown at Statement. (*See* below).

(c) In all the cases, action has been instituted as shown in the Statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Details of instances of irregularities came to the notice of this Department during the preceding two years

Nature of irregularity detected	Action taken
Haryana	
(i) As per preliminary inquiry, wheat meant for Above Poverty Line (APL) beneficiaries was found to be diverted by the fair price Shop owners in complicity with the officers and employees of Food & Supplies Department of Haryana Government, transporters and others.	(i) The State Government of Haryana suspended six officers/officials of Department of Food & Supplies on 6.7.2005. Licenses of eleven Fair price shops found involved were suspended and show cause notices were issued to them. Action was also taken against the employees of CONFED and the transport contractors. The state Government has instituted a comprehensive inquiry.
Tamil Nadu	
(ii) In the State of Tamil Nadu, an attempt was made to divert rice meant for PDS (Public Distribution System).	(ii) The State Government of Tamil Nadu took action against the concerned twenty-two accused. Investigation in this case has been completed and the process of preparation of charges is in progress. One of the involved exporter firm stated before the Hon'ble High Court of Chennai that the seized rice was part of the large quantity of rice purchased by them from the

Nature of irregularity detected	Action taken
	open market. The petitioner firm also filed a contempt petition in the Hon'ble High court of Madras. The Hon'ble Court of Madras ordered on 6.10.05 for release of the seized quantity of rice to the firm on payment of a sum of Rs. 30. lakh.
Karnataka	
(iii) In the State of Karnataka, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer affairs detected diversion of a small quantity of 16,676 tonnes of rice and 90.36 tonnes of wheat allocated under "Food for work Programme".	(iii) The State Government of Karnataka entrusted the matter to Corps of Detectives (COD) for inquiry into the matter.
NCT of Delhi	
(iv) The media had highlighted the case of diversion of wheat meant for Above Poverty Line (APL) to private flour mills in NCT of Delhi	(iv) On preliminary inquiry, involvement was found amongst transport contractors and fair price shop owners in diversion of the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) wheat to private mills. FIR was lodged and inquiry has been instituted against the suspected persons.

Nature of irregularity detected	Action taken
Punjab	
(v) During the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2004-05, some irregularities in procurement of rice came to the notice of this Department, which were investigated.CBI also initiated inquiry in the alleged irregularities in procurement of sub-standard rice at large scale in Punjab.	(v) The Inspection Teams from this Department and teams of CBI conducted inspections at four districts of Punjab from 28.9.05 to 1.10.05. CBI has registered three cases against 83 officials of Food Corporation of India and 330 private rice millers of Punjab. Departmental action has also been initiated/ taken against the officers/officials of FCI identified by these Inspection Teams.
Uttar Pradesh	
(vi) U.P. Fair Price Shop Parishad and others filed a petition in the High Court of Allahabed alleging irregularities in distribution of foodgrains under PDS and other welfare schemes in Lakhimpur, Gonda and other Districts of Uttar Pradesh seeking CBI inquiry therein.	(vi) After preliminary inquiry on the complaints received, the Food & Civil Supplies Department of Govt. of Uttar Pradesh fixed responsibility of Senior State Government officers, suspended a number of officers/officials and initiated disciplinary action against them in the Districts of Lakhimpur Kheri, Balia and Gonda. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has prayed before the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad that there is no need to entrust the matter to CBI as the State Government Agencies are well equipped to take care of the situation.